## DIAS WINS DOHERTY AWARD ......p. 5 WHITESIDE, NALLEY, BORDEN, AND STROM CHOSEN ACS FELLOWS ......p. 7



#### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

| 50 Years Ago                           | 2  |
|--|----|
| Rasika Dias Wins 2009 Doherty Award    | 5  |
| Whiteside et.al. Among 1st ACS Fellows | 7  |
| October Metroplex Seminar Schedule     | 8  |
| Wallace Wins Schulz / Local Dues       | 9  |
| ACS Presidential Statements            | 10 |
| Chem Gems & Joules                     | 12 |
| Around-the-Area                        | 14 |
| Wichita Falls-Duncan Section           | 14 |
| South Plains                           | 14 |
| U of Arkansas                          | 14 |
| Heart o' Texas                         | 15 |
| D-FW / Memorium: Paul Jones            | 15 |
| October D-FW Meeting Notice            | 19 |
| INDEX OF ADVERTISERS                   |    |
| American Delumer Standards Corn        | 6  |

| American Polymer Standards Corp | 6  |
|---------------------------------|----|
| ANA-LAB                         | 13 |
| Huffman Laboratories            | 3  |
| Cheryl Martin                   | 3  |
| Minuteman Press                 | 20 |
| Nancy Jackson                   | 4  |
| Sr. Mary Virginia Orna          | 17 |
| Texas A&M University-Commerce   | 6  |
|                                 |    |

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## Fifty Years Ago in The Southwest Retort

The Southwest Regional Meeting will be held Dec 3-5 in Baton Rouge, LA. There will be special symposia on Chemical Education, Polymerization Chemistry, High Energy Combustion, and Organometallic Chemistry. There will be general sessions on Organic, Inorganic, Analytical, Industrial & Engineering, and Physical Chemistry and also on Biochemistry. Among the featured speakers are **Drs. Herman Mark, H. C. Brown,** and **Dietmar Seyferth**. The General Chair is **Dr. Arthur R. Choppin** of LSU.

Faculty from the University of Texas (now UT-Austin) attending Gordon Conferences were Drs. Norman Hackerman, Leon O. Morgan, and Leon J. Slutsky. Attending the ACS Organic Symposium in Seattle, WA, were Drs. Philip Bailey, Jordan J. Bloomfield, Pete D. Gardner, Lewis F. Hatch, and Royston M. Roberts. Several research grants were awarded to chemical and chemical engineering faculty members. Dr. Leon J. Slutsky received a \$2,000 Cottrell grant from Research Corp. ACS-PRF grants were given to Robbin C. Anderson (\$6500), Rowland Pettit (\$5850) and John J. McKetta (\$6300).

ACS-DFW Director **Jack D. Brown** has been promoted to Vice President of Production at Morton Foods. Brown is the holder of a BS degree in chemistry and math from North Texas State College (*now UNT*) and an MA degree in biochemistry from the University of Texas. He has been serving as Production and Quality Control Manager for the seven state Southwestern operations of the company.

Baylor's new faculty member. Dr. James L. McAtee. Jr. received his BS degree from Texas A&M in 1947, having interrupted his undergraduate training for a three-year tour in the Air Force. After obtaining MS and Ph.D. degrees from Rice in physical chemistry, he worked at the Baroid Division of National Lead Co in Houston until the present time. He is a native of Waco and is the brother-in-law of chemistry faculty member Dr. John S. Belew. Retort readers will remember that he gave the chemical news from Baroid as part of the Retort items from the Southeastern ACS Section.

At Texas A&M two-year, \$40,000 Welch grants have gone to Dr. Edward A. Meyers and Dr. Bennie J. Camp. Associate Professor H. K. Zimmerman, Jr. and postdoc Hans Weidmann have been elected members of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker. Department Head Fred W. Jensen has retired as has Assoc. Prof. E. L. Harter.

New faculty members at the University of Arkansas include **Drs. George Blyholder, A. Wallace Cordes**, and **Donald G. Gardner**. The speaker at the first U of A ACS section meeting of the academic year will be **Dr. J. L. Franklin** on the topic "Ion-Molecule Reactions in the Gas Phase."

## RETORT HELP NEEDED

Our magazine needs a volunteer to aid in obtaining new advertisers and also to serve as a PR contact for the D-FW Section. Please contact *The Retort* Editor at tomstrom@ juno.com, if you are interested.



## **Southwest Retort**

Published for the advancement of Chemists, Chemical Engineers and Chemistry in this area.

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## May Retort Glitch

You readers with keen eyes probably noticed that promised email addresses mentioned in a paragraph weren't there at the end of the paragraph. As you surely know, e-mail addresses show up in blue print when *The Retort* is being typed. However, that blue print disappears on reproduction unless black print is substituted for blue. That didn't happen in May.



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# Southwest Retort

#### SIXTY-SECOND YEAR

September 2009

## UT-ARLINGTON'S RASIKA DIAS WINS 2009 DOHERTY AWARD

#### by E. Thomas Strom

This year's Wilfred T. Doherty Award has been given to one of the Metroplex's premiere inorganic chemists, Professor Rasika Dias of UT-Arlington. Since joining the faculty of UT-Arlington 1992, Rasika's stature has followed a steady, upward path. He and his group have authored over 140 papers, and he has received grant support from sources such as NSF, the Welch Foundation, PRF, the Texas Advanced Technology Program, and the Air Force. Recognition from his inorganic chemistry peer group has resulted in his being chosen for the Editorial Advisory Boards for the journals Inorganic Chemistry and Dalton Transactions. He has received outstanding research achievement awards at UT-Arlington, both for the College of Science and for the University as a whole. To add to those, he also received the Outstanding Teacher Award for the

College of Science plus an award for Outstanding Academic Advisor. Rasika's research will be discussed later in this profile, but he wants to express his appreciation to all the students, postdocs, and other collaborators who made his achievements possible.

Rasika Dias was born in the island nation of Sri Lanka, which, during colonial days, was known as The educational system Cevlon. modeled that of England. As one went through the system, the stream of students narrowed so that only the most promising emerged at the end of the process. After grade 10, students with a scientific bent were divided into two groups. One group was essentially on an engineering path, while the other group traveled the biological path. Only 10% were allowed to enter the University. In Rasika's first year he took chemistry,

got their choice after the first year, and Rasika obtained one of 20 seats in chemistry. An undergraduate chemistry curriculum at the University of Peradeniya was much more rigorous that a comparable program in the US, so Rasika took a lot of very focused chemistry courses. He graduated as the top student in the College of Science. Several US schools had a scouting program in operation to find

botany, and zoology. Top students

ing program in operation to find promising Asian students to bring to the US. Rasika was contacted and decided to do graduate work in the US. Instead of going to England on a commonwealth scholarship, he began graduate work at UC-Davis, where he did a Ph.D. in main group chemistry with mentor Philip Power. After graduation, he worked one year at Pace Laboratories and then two-anda-half years at DuPont as a visiting research scientist, before joining the UT-Arlington faculty in 1992, becoming full professor in 2004.

The work of the Dias group encompasses a variety of areas, touching on catalysis, novel antimicrobial agents, coinage metal chemistry, and stabilization of hitherto reactive, unstable molecules. One theme is to use fluorinated ligands to stabilize reactive species so that they are "bottle-able." Space does not permit my discussing Rasika's research in any detail, so I will focus on one very important discovery. A platinumethylene complex was known as long ago as 1827, but no one had ever made the gold analog. No one, that is, until Rasika and his group did it in 2007. This successful work utilized one of Rasika's favorite ligands, a heavily fluorinated scorpionate.

Rasika is a nature lover and is fond of traveling, playing chess, and watching cricket. His wife Tamara works in finance for Chase Bank. Daughter Nadeeka has a chemistry degree from UT-Austin and is working on brain research at Northwestern University while waiting for admitmedical school. tance to Son Rukshan has completed his first year at UT-Arlington and is thinking of being a chemistry major.

The September meeting of the D-FW Section will be held on Thursday, Sept. 24, at UT-Arlington. One event at that meeting will be the honoring of our 50- and 60-year members, many of whom will be there. However, the main event will be Rasika Dias' Doherty Award Lecture on "Taming Reactive Molecules." If there's anyone who knows how to do that, it is Rasika. I hope we have a large audience to learn how this taming is done and to also honor this outstanding chemist.

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## WHITESIDE, NALLEY, BORDEN, STROM IN FIRST GROUP OF ACS FELLOWS

The ACS Fellows program is designed to honor members who have demonstrated excellence in their contributions to the chemical enterprise coupled with distinctive service to ACS or to the broader world of chemistry. 162 Fellows were chosen from the 154,000 ACS members to represent the inaugural class. The initial group of ACS Fellows includes four chemists who are from the sections served by *The Southwest Retort*. ACS Fellows attending the Washington D. C. ACS meeting in August were given certificates and pins marking the occasion

Dr. Charles H. Whiteside, founder and president of Ana-Lab Corp. in Kilgore, is the sole industrial chemist of the group. He joined ACS while a graduate student at Texas A&M and was awarded his 50-year membership pin in December. He helped establish the East Texas Section and served as the Section's first chair. Kilgore became the home for Dr. Whiteside and his family when he accepted a position at Kilgore College. He became Chair of the chemistry department in 1967 but later resigned to devote full time to his new business. He founded Ana-Lab in 1965, and today Ana-Lab is the 15<sup>th</sup> largest employer in Kilgore and the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest locally owned company in Kilgore. Ana-Lab ranks as a leader in environmental laboratories on the national scale. The company has regional offices in Shreveport, La., Norman, OK, Madison, AL, Austin, Amarillo, Dallas, Houston, and Brownsville.

**Professor Elizabeth Ann Nallev** is with the Department of Physical Science at Cameron University. Although most of her career has been spent in Oklahoma, the Metroplex can take credit for her Ph.D., obtained at Texas Woman's University with James Johnson. Some of her research activities include work on photochemistry with Dick Caldwell at UTD and research on organoborane synthesis with Donna Nelson at OSU. However, her main focus is chemical education. She was first woman winner of the Oklahoma Chemist Award, and she also won the Henry Hill Award from the ACS Division of Professional Relations. Of course, every reader of this magazine should know that she was ACS President in 2006, running a successful petition campaign.

Professor Welch Weston Thatcher Borden is in the Chemistry Department at the University of North Texas. He is a renowned theoretical chemist. Work in the Borden group uses ab initio calculations to suggest experimental research projects, plan their execution, and interpret the results obtained. Calculations are designed not only at making quantitative predictions but at developing a qualitative understanding of organic chemistry. Wes currently serves ACS as an Associate Editor of J. Am. Chem. Soc. and in the past has been on the Editorial Board of J. Org. Chem. and the Journal of Chemical Theory and Computation.

Dr. E. Thomas Strom is Adjunct

Professor of Chemistry at UT-Arlington and currently Editor of *The Southwest Retort*.

## OCTOBER METROPLEX SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Seminars are occasionally postponed or cancelled. Call or check departmental websites before attending.

Sept. 25, Paul UT-Arlington. Pantano, UTD, "Accurately Assessing the Potential Toxicity of Carbon Nanotubes and the Use of Carbon Nanotubes as Cancer Theranostic Agents." Oct. 2, David Birney, Texas Tech, "Pseudopericvclic Reactions-Adventures on Potential Energy Surfaces." Oct. 9, Michael Palmer, University of Virginia, TBA. Oct. 16, Martin Pomerantz, UT-Arlington, "Studies of Polythiophenes and Bi- and Terthiophene Model Compounds." Oct. 23, Michael Hendrich, Carnegie Mellon, Paramagnetic Resonance "Electron (EPR) Detection of Intermediates in the Enzymatic Cycle of an Extradiol Dioxygenase." Oct. 30. Donald Kurtz, UT-San Antonio, "How Microbes Detoxify Diatomic Oxygen and Nitrogen Species: The Non-Heme Iron Reductive Paradigm." Nov. 6, Rosalie Uht, UNT Health Science Center, "Estrogen and Glucocorticoid Regulated Gene Expression Implications for the Stress Response." Seminars are normally at 2:30 p.m. in Room 114. Baker Chemical Research Building.

<u>UT-Dallas</u>. Sept. 25, Mitch Winnik, University of Toronto, "Novel Nanostructures via Block Copolymer Self Assembly." Oct. 2, David Minter, TCU, "Synthetic Methodology using Boron-Activated Enamines: The Crinane Ring System and Beyond." Oct. 9. Xiankai Sun, UT-Southwestern, "Design and Synthesis of Targeted PET Imaging Probes. Oct. 23, John Maguire, SMU, "Carboranes and Metalacarboranes." Oct. 30, Dean DeLongchamp, NIST, "Structure and Chemistry Measurements for Organic Photovoltaics Materials." Nov. 6, Richard D. McCullough, Carnegie Mellon, "Novel Materials for Organic Electronics." Seminars are normally at 2 p.m. in the Conference Center, Room CN1.102.

UNT. Sept. 25, O. David Sparkman, University of the Pacific, "Mechanisms of Ionization in the Direct Analysis in Real Time (DART) Ion Source & Some Interesting Applications." Oct. 2. Chris Culbertson, Kansas State, "Microfluidics and Bioanalytical Chemistry." Oct. 9, Jeff Coffer, TCU, TBA. Oct. 23, Stewart Novick, University, "Laboratory Weslevan Astrochemistry." Oct. 30, Bill Lester, UC-Berkeley and Lawrence Livermore Lab, TBA. Nov. 6, Roshan Perara, UT-Arlington. "Proteins Containing Unnatural Amino Acids." Seminars are normally at 3:30 p.m. in Room 106. Chemistry Building.

<u>TCU.</u> Oct. 1, Gregg Dieckmann, UTD, TBA. Nov. 3, Marcus Weck, New York University, TBA. Seminars are normally at 11 a.m. in Lecture Hall 3, Sid Richardson Science Bldg.

<u>SMU</u>. Sept. 25, Charles Hoyle, University of Southern Mississippi, "Thiol-Click Chemistry: A Powerful Box of Reactions." Oct. 9, Stuart Rowan, Case Western Reserve, "Supramolecular Chemistry in Polymeric Systems: From Nanoassemblies to Dynamic Materials." Oct. 16, Paul F. Cook, University of Oklahoma, TBA. **Nov. 4** (*Note change of day*), Marcus Weck, New York University, "Supramolecular Copolymers." Room 152, Fondren Science (*Note change of room*). Seminars are normally at 3 p.m. in Room 155, Fondren Science Bldg.

UT-Southwestern Biochemistry. Sept. 24, Dagmar Ringe, Brandeis University, "Specific Inhibition of Alpha-Synuclein Aggregation as a Therapeutic Strategy for Parkinson's Disease." Oct. 8, Bob Murphy, University of Colorado, Denver, "Recent Advances in Mass Spectrometry of Lipids: Phospholipid Remodeling and Tissue Imaging." Oct. 15, Eileen M. Lafer, UT-Health Science Center, San Antonio, "Clathrin Coated Vesicle Dynamics." Oct. 29, Philip A. Cole, Johns Hopkins University, "Chemical Approaches to Sorting Out Protein Function." Seminars are normally at 12 noon in L4.176 Biochemistry Bldg.

UT-Southwestern Biological Chemistry. Oct. 20, Kazunori Koide, University of Pittsburgh, TBA. Seminars are normally at 12 noon in L4.162 Biochemistry Bldg.

## CLAUDIA WALLACE SCHULZ AWARD Winner

The winner of the 2009 Werner Schulz Award for High School Chemistry Teaching in the Dallas-Fort Worth area is Claudia H. Wallace from Creekview High School in Carrollton. She is the Science Department Chair at the school as well as a chemistry teacher. A fuller profile of Ms. Wallace will appear in a future issue of *The Southwest Retort*.

## DON'T FORGET THOSE LOCAL SECTION DUES

It won't be long until you'll be receiving your 2010 dues statement from ACS. Among the various charges on your statement will be a listing for optional local section dues.

Since it's optional, you will be tempted to forget about it. *Please don't!* Pay that small sum; don't cross it out. Those optional dues make a world of difference to the programs that your local section can offer. They are <u>vital</u> to your local section. You won't miss the money, but your local section surely would!!

## GREENING THE SOUTHWEST RETORT

The ACS has in recent years laid great emphasis on sustainability. One aspect of that goal is emphasis on saving paper. The technical program for the ACS national meetings is no longer carried in C&EN prior to the meeting. Indeed, a member can skip getting a hard copy of C&EN, just accessing the magazine online and getting a \$10 discount on his/her dues. We feel that The Southwest Retort should do its part. Our magazine is available online, ads and all, at the D-FW Section website at http://www.acsdfw.org. If you readers wish to forego getting a mailed hard copy of the magazine, please inform Editor Tom Strom of vour desires at tomstrom@juno.com, and your address will be deleted from the magazine's mailing list.

## STATEMENTS FROM ACS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

**Editor's Foreword.** As is our usual practice in September, we are publishing 300 word statements provided to us by this year's candidates for ACS president. The order of the statements is alphabetical by last name. The percentage of ACS members voting for president has been shrinking year after year. Voting for president is one of the easiest things members can do and one of the most important. We urge you subscribers to read these statements carefully and then vote!

## STATEMENT FROM NANCY B. JACKSON

Chemistry is essential to addressing the challenges society faces in developing new energy sources and providing environmental and economic sustainability. Unfortunately, the ability of science in general and chemistry in particular to provide solutions for our challenges is not appreciated by the public. The International Year of Chemistry, 2011, is an opportunity to innovatively communicate science to the public. If elected President, I will use the International Year of Chemistry to its fullest to partner with our international colleagues to communicate chemistry as well as to encourage development of novel methods for conveying to the public the crucial role of chemistry for a sound future. Support we receive for chemical education and research from government and policy makers is dependent upon how much the public values chemistry. With the expertise of our chemical educators---the front line communicators of chemistry to the public---and our volunteers---who have tremendous experience in communicating to the public through National Chemistry Week and other activities---ACS is primed to take the lead on communicating science and the central science of chemistry. Our ability to provide long term solutions to energy needs or to provide a sustainable future depends on our ability to convey to the public the wonder and importance of chemistry.

I will be a strong advocate for research ---at universities, national laboratories, and industry, and will support ACS to be a leader in multidisciplinary and fundamental research. I encourage you to visit my website at <u>NancyJackson.org</u> to learn more. I ask for your vote for ACS President-elect and promise in return to give all my energy and enthusiasm to improving the image of chemistry in order to ensure a vital future for chemistry.

### **STATEMENT FROM CHERYL A. MARTIN** "Let's Build a Sustainable Future with Chemistry"

The ACS President represents the interests of the 150,000+ Society members, providing a strong voice to help shape the ACS agenda and priorities. I am committed to this – truly listening to and understanding what is on YOUR mind. There are many challenges facing the US and the world today where chemists can have a significant impact on the possible solutions. I distill my thoughts on how to approach these challenges into a single word: sustainability – in its broadest sense, both 'green' and 'ongoing' – sustaining our members, sustaining the environment, sustaining jobs in the US and broadly in the field of chemistry, sustaining partnerships that allow the spread of technology developments worldwide, sustaining dreams in the eyes of our children. I believe we must focus our actions, within the tenets of the new ACS Strategic Plan, in four areas: Innovation, Partnerships, Education and Leadership. My expanded statement and more details about me can be found on my blog: http://camartinacscandidate.blogspot.com.

So, why vote for me? Over the past 20 years I have engaged actively in many ACS local and national events and committees, and I believe strongly in the ACS and its mission: "improving peoples' lives through the transforming power of chemistry." I have been both an active team member and a leader/mentor, and I know how the Society works. My professional career has been varied and challenging, moving from lab bench to marketing, finance to management. Most recently I have had the opportunity to lead the Rohm and Haas coatings business in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, introducing innovative solutions with a significant focus on sustainability. This has been an amazing experience enhancing how I view the possibilities of broad partnerships and diversity of thought to bring new ideas to fruition. I ask for your vote!

## STATEMENT FROM MARY VIRGINIA ORNA "Critical Analysis for Challenging Times"

Local Sections are the life blood of the American Chemical Society. ACS officers and volunteers are unsung heroes and heroines who, for "high salaries!" received, perform admirably. Your devoted, selfless, diligent contributions have enabled ACS to become the world's largest scientific professional organization. Local Sections address the "green edge of innovative thought" that, through new models and structures, eventually drives our educational systems and the economy.

All ACS activities share the ultimate goal of promoting chemistry as a fundamental drive that improves the quality of everyone's life -- worldwide. However, humans, not computers, do chemistry. ACS is a membership

organization. Thus, our guiding principle, in whatever we do, should be to keep ACS members' best interests always in mind – weighing how each decision will affect individual ACS members. So, I solicit your help in learning more about your professional needs and interest.

As ACS President, I will regularly seek your recommendations and inform you of activities and strategies to support and assist your members. I will confer and work with you to improve and strengthen communications, develop resources, sponsor programs, and promote effective policies to enable your Local Section to grow and flourish in these challenging times.

This limited statement cannot fully describe the assiduous efforts I will undertake on your behalf, if elected. Please visit www.maryvirginiaorna.net for my complete critical analysis for these challenging times. Contact me at mvorna@cnr.edu with questions and suggestions. I pledge to work with everyone – particularly with you, your Section leaders, Councilors, and committees. I am determined to serve as a responsive, hard-working, committed ACS President. I will be honored to receive your vote and trust to enhance **YOUR** professional statue, the entire chemical enterprise, and the ongoing benefits it generates for everyone.

# CHEM GEMS & JOULES

National Chemistry Week Goes Elemental October 18-24, 2009 in honor of the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mendeleev's Periodic Table of the Elements. Celebrate by hosting an element festival: gather examples of household items and identify the elements of which each is comporised. Have your students research an element and make a business card with an appropriate logo, address, etc. then have a meet and greet. Assemble a periodic table floor puzzle, make a periodic table of your faculty, or sing along with the flash animation of Tom Lehrer's "The Elements" http://www.privatehand.com/flash/el ements.html. Be crazy and creative the only limit is, well, the current number of elements. Check out these additional resources

http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/c

ontent go to Education – Community Outreach – National Chemistry Week. Download an issue of *Celebrating Chemistry*, geared towards elementary and middle school students, for activities, puzzles, and interesting facts about the many uses of elements. The high school magazine *Chemmatters* www.acs.org/chemmat ters will soon have great NCW ideas.

Stanford University Library lists a wide variety of print, video, and online resources for NCW classified by grade level interest http://wwwsul.stanford.edu/depts/swain/hosted/n cw/2009/print.html

Take advantage of high tech. Get the scoop on the elements with 5-min podcast tours offered by the Royal Society of Chemistry. http://www.rsc .org/chemistryworld/podcast/element

\*\*\*\*Continued on Page 20\*\*\*\*



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# Around-the-Area

#### Wichita Falls-Duncan

The section will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this fall. Stay tuned for further information. Cochairs of the organizational committee are **Ann Nalley** and **Tom Dealy**. Councilors from the section attending the fall ACS meeting were Ann Nalley and **Keith Vitense** of Cameron University. Also attending and serving on the Committee on Technician Affairs was Tom Dealy of Halliburton.

#### **South Plains Section**

Texas Tech University. Dr. Guigen Li received a \$395,400, two vear NIH grant titled RO3 "Searching for Novel Analgesic and Anti-Inflammatory Agents." Dr. Ed Quitevis participated in the NSF Experimental Physical Chemistry Panel April 6-7. Dr. Dmitri Pappas has been invited to serve on an NIH study section panel on "Bioanalytical Chemistry and Biophysics." Dr. Jorge A. Morales presented an invited talk to the Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata in Argentina on May 20.

#### **University of Arkansas**

In Memorium Ves Childs. Alumni and department friend Dr. W. Ves Childs passed away June 21. He received his Ph.D. at the U of A in physical chemistry under the direction of Ed Amis. He was employed at Phillips Petroleum in

Bartlesville for 22 years, working in electrochemistry and fluorochemistry. He then joined 3M in St. Paul, working there 17 years. He retired from 3M in 2001. He held 52 patents and authored five book chapters and numerous articles. Ves and his wife Holly established the Arthur Fry Lecture Series at U of A 1997 to honor their former in professor. Nobel Laureate Robert Grubbs gave this lecture in 2009. Ves was a 50 year member of both Alpha Chi Sigma and ACS.

Former faculty member Collis Geren plans to retire June 30, 2010. He has served as Dean of the Graduate School since 1991. Roger Koeppe and Denise Greathouse received a three year from NSF on "Intrinsic Tilt of Transmembrane Helices" beginning July 1. Derek Sears received the 2009 Service Award of the Meteoritical Society at the 72<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the society in July in Nancy, France. Presentations were given at the Rocky Mountain Conference on Analytical Chemistry by Johanna M. Froyd-Rankenberg (coauthors Denise Greathouse and Roger Koeppe, II), Denise Greathouse (coauthors Laura A. Bradney, Nicole McClelland and Vitaly V. Vostrikov), and Vitaly Vostrikov (coauthors Chris V. Grant, Stanley J. Opella and Roger E. Koeppe, II). Posters were presented at the Collagen Gordon Conference in July by Joshua Sakon, Leena

Philominathan and Ryan Bauer. Matt McIntosh presented a poster in July at the Gordon Conference on Natural Products. Nan Zheng gave a talk and chaired a session at the 5<sup>th</sup> Sino-US Symposium on Organic Chemistry in Lanzhou. China in June. Poster presentations were made at the July 25-29 meeting in Boston Protein Society of the bv undergraduates from the Kumar lab Andrew Avery, Cory Garren, Natalie White, and Amen Ismail.

#### Heart o' Texas Section

Baylor University. Dr. Kevin G. Pinney has received a grant/contract from Oxigen, Inc. to study "Combretastatin A-1 Glucuronide Synthesis and Characterization." Dr. Pinney and Dr. David Pennington were awarded Dean's Club Certificates of Appreciation for having directed ten or more undergraduate honors theses. Presentations were given at the 64<sup>th</sup> Ohio State International Symposium on Molecular Spectroscopy June 21-26 by Carlos Manzanares, Helena Diez-y-Riega, and Yasnahir Perez-Delgado. Postdoc Kishore Gaddale gave a poster presentation at the 41<sup>st</sup> National Organic Chemistry Symposium held in Boulder, CO in June. Coauthors were Lindsay Jones, Jiangli Song, Matthew MacDonough, Elizabeth Cyril, Akash Desai, Grace Yoo, Elizabeth Conner, Wara Arispe, Gustavo Chavarria, Amanda Charlton-Sevcik, Tracy Strecker, Shen-En Chen, Mary Lynn Trawick and Kevin Pinney.

The new chair of the department is **Patrick Farmer**, formerly from UC-Irvine. A new lecturer is **Maricel de Mesa.** Fourteen new graduate students have joined the department. Colloquium speaker for Sept. was **Frank Foss** from UT-Arlington.

#### **Dallas-Fort Worth**

In Memorium Paul Jones. Long-time UNT faculty member Professor Paul R. Jones died on Aug. 16 from pancreatic cancer. Paul was born in York, PA, on Dec. 19. 1940. In high school Paul was determined to be a mechanical engineer until an inspiring teacher convinced him to be a chemist. He received his B.S. degree in chemistry from Penn State in 1962. He then obtained a Ph D from Purdue with Robert Benkeser as mentor. There followed postdoctoral studies at Wisconsin under Robert West. At Wisconsin he met his future wife Priscilla, herself a Ph.D. chemist.

In 1968 Paul joined the UNT faculty and rose to the position of full professor in 1979. His research interests lay in organometallic chemistry. His early work dealt with experimental and theoretical investigations of Group IV substituted anilines. Other studies involved siliconcarbon double bonded compounds and functionalization reactions of silvlacetylene with functional groups on silicon. A particularly elegant paper was "Symmetry Considerations and the Mechanism of the Hydroboration Reaction. The Nature of  $\pi$  Complexes" (J. Org. Chem., 37, 1886 (1972)), which impressed Nobel Laureate H. C. Brown with Paul's fine analysis. His work was supported by NSF, the Air Force, and

the Welch Foundation. He also initiated joint work at the Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology. Paul was honored with the D-FW ACS Section's Doherty Award in 1985, and in 2006 he won the John R. Kuebler Award from Alpha Chi Sigma, the highest award this professional chemistry fraternity could bestow. Past winners of the award were people such as Roger Adams and Glenn Seaborg.

Paul was active in ACS governance, both at the local and the national level. He served the section as Councilor for many years, The Southwest Retort as Business Manager, and national ACS as a member of the Board of Directors He was a skilled parliamentarian, whose knowledge was often used at national meetings. ACS Board of Directors Chair Dr. Judith Benham recognized Paul in her report of Mar., 2009, as a Diversity Ambassador, assisting in ACS outreach to advance diversity in the chemical sciences

Priscilla Jones died two years ago, and Paul started a scholarship program in her memory to encourage women chemists. Priscilla had had to face many barriers in her career, and Paul wanted to remember her by encouraging a new generation of women chemists. Paul and Priscilla are survived by son Kevin, daughter Ann, and two grandchildren. Paul was a devout Catholic, serving his church by playing the organ and piano and by singing. His contributions to chemical science and to the chemical profession were many. He provided a model of service to church and to science that many

admire but too few emulate. He will be missed.

<u>University of North Texas</u>. The new chair of the department is **William E. Acree, Jr.**, replacing **Michael G. Richmond** who decided to return to teaching and research.

Texas Christian University. The department welcomes new assistant professor **Benjamin** G. Janesko Ben received a BS chemistry degree from Allegheny College and a Ph.D. in theoretical and computational chemistry from Carnegie Mellon University. He was a postdoc with Gustavo Scuseria at Rice. Ben's research focuses on developing electronic structure methods for reactions at surfaces and applying them to problems in heterogeneous and "green" catalysis.

Ann Richards received an NSF grant for "Facile Routes to Multinuclear Metal Phosphonates and Phosphinates: New Materials with Diverse Functions." Jeff Coffer received a subcontract through UT-Arlington for "Surface Modifications in Multiscale Silicone" in association with the Metroplex Research Consortium for Electronic Devices and Materials.

In July **Tracy Hanna** presented a poster at the Organometallic Gordon Conference in Newport, RI, and in June her graduate student **Daniel Espinosa** presented a poster at the Inorganic Gordon-Kenan Research Seminar in Biddeford, ME.

UT-Arlington. Rogers Wins Teaching Award. Senior Lecture Dr. Jimmy Rogers has received a \$15,000 UT System Board of Regents Outstanding Teaching Award.

## MARY VIRGINIA ORNA



#### Candidate ACS President-Elect 2010

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. Mohandas Gandhi

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CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHALLENGING TIMES

#### SELECTED ENDORSEMENTS

"During my 40 years of intense involvement in ACS activities at every level, I have met more than a thousand Councilors, Local Section, Divisional officers, and other active ACS members. Among them, Mary Virginia has shown the highest level of devotion, diligence, and perseverance with an absolute determination to make the ACS a better organization for all practitioners of our profession from the youngest chemists to the most respected eminent scientists. For her the job is never done: she never quits. She recognizes the importance of the public image of chemistry for the future of our profession. She will be a most effective President in 2011 - the International Year of Chemistry. I urge you to elect her and encourage others to vote for her." AEP, California

"For more than thirty years our professional paths have crisscrossed repeatedly, and my observation is that Mary Virginia consistently excels at everything she undertakes. Her research on pigments in historical manuscripts is flawless, and her scholarship has earned her a well-deserved international reputation. Her contributions to chemistry education, including the monumental ChemSource project, are truly outstanding. Her contributions to the history of chemistry include important work during her tenure at the Chemical Heritage Foundation. Her insight and understanding have made her invaluable in ACS governance, whether in service to the Council, numerous Council committees, the Division of Chemical Education, the Journal of Chemical Education, the Division of History of Chemistry, or any in number of national advisory roles. She is consistently among the most popular ACS tour speakers, and several Local Sections have invited her for repeat visits. Her list of national and regional awards is long and well deserved. Mary Virginia is truly the best of the best in everything she does." LI, South Carolina

Some \$2 million in awards were given to 73 faculty from nine UT-System institutions. These awards recognize exceptional faculty who care about their educational mission. Besides Rogers, eight other UTA faculty received these awards.

Kevin Schug has received a five year NSF Career Award to study "Ouantitative Characterization of Non-Covalent Interactions by Mass Spectrometry-A Systematic Approach" The award also contains an education component titled Diversity in Science, which involves new pedagogical material for K-12 science teachers, particularly targeting students of limited English proficiency. Kevin was an invited featured lecturer at the Shimadzu Dinner Event at ASMA 2009 Conference in Philadelphia. He was also named to the Editorial Advisory Board of the Journal of Separation Science. Kevin and faculty member Frank Foss along with UT-Austin faculty member Keith Stevenson have started a new journal, Journal of High School Research in the Chemical Sciences. It's intended to serve as a new venue for publishing research work done by high school students in university summer research programs, such as the Welch Summer Scholar program. Submissions for the first issue should be sent to www.uta.edu/chemistry/ JHSR.

**Peter Kroll** is principal investigator on a \$281,547 NSF grant titled "Nano Domain Structure and Multifunctional Properties of Polymer Derived Ceramics." His co-investigator is **Rishi Raj** of the University of Colorado. **Richard Timmons** has received a Texas Ignition Fund Grant. These grants are designed to speed commercialization of products created at UT institutions. The product involves a technique to detect and quantify biomolecules without colormetric methods. The co-investigator is **Digand Davé** from bioengineering.

Fred MacDonnell has received a \$325,308 NSF grant to study "Solar Hydrogen Generation Using Supramolecular Photocatalysts." Fred also welcomed a new son. Havse Mac-Donnell on June 5. Krishnan (Rai) Rajeshwar visited New Delhi Aug. 10-21 to work with the Indian Ministry of New and Renewable Energy on a national hydrogen and fuel cells initiative. While in India, he also visited the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, IIT Kharagpur, and Benares Hindu University to learn about ongoing activities in energy R&D. He also presented talks on his research at two of the institutions

The department has received a \$340,800 NSF grant for "Upgrade of NMR Facilities for Research and Teaching." The PI is Sandy Dasgupta with co-PIs Martin Pomerantz, Carl Lovely, Christopher O'Brien. and Rasika Dias. This grant will allow the upgrade of the 500 MHz spectrometer plus the purchase of additional equipment for the 300 and 500 MHz instruments This grant also entails a pilot program with Tarrant County Community College to allow students in a sophomore organic lab to obtain and interpret data from their experiments.

#### OCTOBER D-FW ACS MEETING UT-DALLAS, TUESDAY, OCT. 13, 2009

#### "THE FLOYD LANDIS SPORTS DOPING CASE AS EVALUATED BY A FORENSIC ANALYTICAL CHEMIST"

#### ACS TOUR SPEAKER BOB BLACKLEDGE

<u>About the Talk</u>: American Floyd Landis won the 2006 Tour de France. However, Landis was stripped of his title because of the supposed presence of a synthetic testosterone in a urine sample. This presentation will examine the analytical data and correspondence from the Landis case in terms of: chain of custody requirements; World Anti-Doping Association guidelines; the French laboratory's standard operating procedure, and reasonable standards of good laboratory practice as viewed from the standpoint of a forensic analytical chemist with experience in accreditation standards.

**About the Speaker:** Robert (Bob) D. Blackledge received his degrees from The Citadel and the University of Georgia. He has worked in forensic science for over 30 years including jobs with the US Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory-Europe and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service Regional Forensic Laboratory-San Diego. He has authored or co-authored forty journal articles and book chapters. He was the Editor of the 2007 Wiley-Interscience book, *"Forensic Analysis on the Cutting Edge: New Methods for Trace Evidence Analysis."* 

**<u>Times</u>**: Social Hour, 6-7 p.m., Courtesy of the UTD Chemistry Department and the NanoTech Institute; Dinner, 7-8 p.m.; Lecture, 8-9 p.m. All events in the Galaxy Room A & B, Student Union, UT-Dallas.

**<u>Reservations/Dinner</u>**: Contact Linda Heard at UT-Dallas by noon on Thursday, Oct. 8; 972-883-2901 or linda.heard@utdallas.edu. Dinner costs \$15 and is oven roasted chicken breast with herbs served with Chianti wine sauce and creamy garlic risotto, Caesar salad, Italian green beans, rolls and butter, New York cheesecake, coffee and tea.

**How to Get There:** Take Central Expressway (US Highway 75) to the Campbell Road exit and go west several miles to University Parkway (between Floyd Road and Waterview Parkway). Turn north (right) on University Parkway. At the first stop sign turn left into Parking Lot J and walk to the Student Union Building.

**Brad Pierce** gave a talk at the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Iron-Sulfur Cluster Biogenesis and Regulation at the University of Georgia Sept. 2.



\*\*\*\*Continued from Page 12\*\*\*\* .asp. The University of Nottingham, England, provides a short video and/or experiment for each element on the periodic table: http://www.per iodicvideos.com/nyt/index.htm.

The Periodic Table of Comic Books: http://www.uky.edu/Projects/Chemc omics/ Periodic table challenge: http://www.ilpi.com/genchem/ periodicquiz.html

Thanks to Jane Smith for this month's column.

Submit material for this column to Mary Teasdale at owlcritic75@yahoo.com or to Tom Strom at tomstrom@juno.com.

#### PERIODICAL